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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
DHA-02 ACDA-07 MCT-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 (ISO) W
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O R 111500Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5889

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND ASSISTANT
SECRETARY TODMAN FROM DERIAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AR
SUBJECT: DERIAN CALL ON PRESIDENT VIDELA

1. U.S. COORDINATOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PATRICIA DERIAN,
MET WITH ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VIDELA FOR 35 MINUTES
MORNING OF AUGUST 9. DIALOGUE WAS FRIENDLY AND COUCHED
IN GENERAL TERMS. VIDELA APPEARED NERVOUS.

2. MAIN POINTS MENTIONED BY PRESIDENT VIDELA WERE:
(1) THAT HE WELCOMED MRS. DERIAN'S VISIT AS DEMONSTRATION
OF HER DESIRE TO PERSONALLY UNDERSTAND ARGENTINA'S
PROBLEMS, (2) THAT ARGENTINA HAD COME A LONG WAY FROM THE
SITUATION OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHAOS INHERITED BY
THE MILITARY, (3) THAT IS WAS THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S
GOAL TO OVERCOME THE THREAT OF SUBVERSION TO ARGENTINA'S
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TRADITIONAL VALUES OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY AND LIBERTY AND
(4) THAT THEY NEEDED MORE TIME. PRESIDENT VIDELA STATED THAT
THE ARMED FORCES HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS AGAINST
SUBVERSION AND, WHILE THERE ARE STILL SOME LEFTOVERS OF
TERRORISM AND ISOLATED ACTS OF VIOLENCE, THE PEOPLE OF
ARGENTINA ARE MANIFESTING A SOCIAL DISCIPLINE WHICH SHOWS THEY
HAVE REJECTED THE MESSAGE OF THE SUBVERSIVES AND UNDERSTAND THE

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OBJECTIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO POINTED TO THE DROP IN INFLATION AS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE KNOW IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR SITUATION AND THANKED MRS. DERIAN FOR HER WORDS OF SUPPORT FOR THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY WITH WHICH HE HAS BEEN CHARGED PERSONALLY, NOTING THAT HER WORDS HELP HIM TO PROGRESS TOWARD THE GOOD DESTINY OF HIS COUNTRY. HE WELCOMED MRS. DERIAN'S RETURN AT ANYTIME TO CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK OF ENCOURAGING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

3. MRS. DERIAN (1) EXPLAINED HER DESIRE TO HAVE A DIRECT UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARGENTINE SITUATION, (2) SAID THAT SHE SAW A SHIFT IN ARGENTINA AWAY FROM THE STATE OF BEING BELEAGUERED AND AT WAR WITH TERRORISTS, (3) WELCOMED THE THINGS PRESIDENT VIDELA HAS SAID ABOUT RETURNING TO PEACE AND DEMOCRACY, (4) NOTED THIS WAS A DIFFICULT TRANSITION AS A CERTAIN LEVEL OF INTERNAL TENSION REMAINS, (5) NOTED THAT THIS WAS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR VIDELA WHOSE LEADERSHIP WAS SIGNIFICANT AND WHOSE OWN INTENTIONS WERE CLEARLY AND WIDELY UNDERSTOOD, AND (6) STRESSED THAT AS THE COUNTRY MOVES BACK TO THE RULE OF LAW IN THE NORMAL SENSE, PEOPLE WILL BEGIN TO UNDER-STAND AND APPRECIATE THE GOVERNMENT. MRS. DERIAN PRAISED THE PRESIDENTS' DIRECT APPEAL TO THE HIGH IDEALS FOR WHICH THE COUNTRY STANDS. SHE AGREED WITH THE PRESIDENT THAT THE PEOPLE LOOK TO THE MILITARY TO SOLVE A PROBLEM IN A TIME OF CRISIS AND THEN WISH IT TO TURN POWER BACK. WITH THE NUMBER OF PROBLEMS
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IN ARGENTINA, SHE STRESSED THE NEED TO FIND WAYS OF KEEPING THE GOOD WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

4. MRS. DERIAN ALSO NOTED THAT HER DISCUSSIONS OF THE PREVIOUS DAY WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN INTERESTING BUT A LITTLE FRUSTRATING. SHE NOTED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WAS A DIFFICULT SUBJECT TO DISCUSS BUT SAID SHE BELIEVED THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE USEFUL AND SAID SHE WOULD BE BACK. SHE PARTED WITH WORDS OF PRAISE FOR THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUENOS05889
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770290-0318
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770873/aaaacjrw.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ef15a45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1636917
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DERIAN CALL ON PRESIDENT VIDELA
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, OVIP, US, AR, (DERIAN, PATRICIA M), (VIDELA, JORGE RAFAEL)
To: STATE SANTIAGO
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ef15a45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009